

JOHN LOVICK • 44TH DISTRICT

SEX OFFENDERS: TOUGH NEW LAWS WE PASSED

The worst sex offenders prey on children. So I focused our main energies on catching more of these scumbags, convicting more of them and protecting our kids from them.

- I voted to make it 25-years-to-life for child rape or molestation in the first degree committed by strangers or teachers, coaches and other trusted authority figures
- I wrote The 24/7 Tracking Law (House Bill 2407), which mandates GPS trackers on sex offenders who register as homeless and have offended against a child;
- I voted to make child pornographers register as sex offenders.

We also made it a crime to communicate with a minor for immoral purposes through e-mail or a computer, because many child molesters try to groom their victims in chat rooms and by e-mail.

All of these measures had the support of police officers, prosecutors and victims' advocates. Gov. Gregoire said Washington state now has some of the toughest sex offender laws in the country.

HELPING CRIME VICTIMS

To help crime victims, we also passed new laws and added funding in two key budgets:

- Crime Victims Compensation Program (\$1.8 million).
- Sexual assault victims advocates' programs (\$2 million).



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SESSION REVIEW 2006

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**TOWN
HALL
MEETINGS**
Mill Creek
Lake Stevens
Everett
*See inside
for details!*

KEEPING IN TOUCH

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REP. JOHN LOVICK SESSION REVIEW 2006

SERVING THE 44TH DISTRICT

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your representative.

This newsletter is my chance to tell you about issues important to our neighborhoods in the 44th District.

The Seattle P-I called this legislative session the "59 day miracle" because we:

- passed landmark reforms to improve our schools, create jobs and make our neighborhoods safer;
- reached historic agreements on controversial issues that have eluded solutions: transportation, water, unemployment insurance and medical malpractice; and
- negotiated a balanced budget and adjourned in 59 days, the first time in memory the Legislature finished and left Olympia a day early.

Many of you have questions about specific issues. This newsletter isn't big enough to go into detail about everything. If you have a question, please contact my office – I'll be happy to find out the answers for you.

I'm proud of what we accomplished this session, and I want to thank all of the citizens who got informed and involved. You made a difference.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. I'm happy to be home in the 44th District, and I look forward to hearing from you or having the chance to talk at a community event.

Sincerely,

Rep. John Lovick, Mill Creek

Speaker Pro Tem
44th Legislative District

A '59-DAY MIRACLE' FOR JOBS AND FAMILIES

A QUICK LOOK AT A GREAT SESSION

During the short 59-day session, we worked with everyone – Republicans and Democrats, business owners and unions, farmers and environmentalists – to find compromises on tough issues.

Some of these issues had been tying lawmakers in knots for 30 years.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS.

THIS SESSION, WE:

- reformed the alphabet soup of regional transportation, which will give citizens shorter, safer commutes on our highways and more value for every dime of taxpayer money;
- found historic compromises on tough issues like medical malpractice, Columbia River water use and unemployment insurance;
- moved the primary election a month earlier to give our men and women in uniform more time to send in their ballots;
- helped more kids get health care, part of our goal to make sure every child in Washington state has health coverage by 2010;
- eliminated the \$5 fee at our state parks; and
- reformed the statewide test for students (the WASL) to give every student a fair shot at success.

We also passed a budget that puts nearly \$1 billion in the bank for future needs.

CREATING GOOD JOBS

Business leaders tell me that they need two main ingredients to create jobs: (1) creative, highly educated workers and (2) free-flowing highways and railroads to get people to work and goods to market.

This session, we boosted our state's brainpower. We also passed reforms to improve transportation.

INVESTING IN BRAINPOWER

Our economy used to run on horsepower and factories. Today, our jobs depend on brainpower and universities.



This year, I voted to:

- build a new university in Snohomish County;
- create almost 1,000 more opportunities for people to earn a college degree, especially in high-demand areas like math and science;
- reform our tough new high school tests (the WASL).

FIXING TRAFFIC GRIDLOCK

A single wreck on I-5 can turn your easy drive to work into a nightmare.

To prevent more traffic gridlock, we passed a break-through reform to get transit agencies – state and local – to work together, plan together and give citizens better options.

To stop car wrecks from turning into traffic nightmares, we put money into fixing unsafe roads, got tough on drunk drivers and put more state troopers on the road.



A SAFER HIGHWAY 2

Everybody who lives in the 44th knows that Highway 2 has some dangerous chokepoints. Too many people have been hurt or killed on this highway.

I sponsored the amendment to add \$700,000 to complete the planning for Highway 2 improvements. I'll continue to work with citizens on the U.S. 2 Safety Coalition to secure federal funds to make this highway safer for us all.

MORE STATE TROOPERS

We need more troopers because our population is growing and federal laws diverted manpower from patrolling our highways to patrolling our state's ferries.

I noticed that the Senate has zero new state troopers in the Transportation budget, and the House also had no new troopers. So I talked to the chair of House Transportation and secured money in the budget for 18 new state troopers.

These new troopers will make our highways safer. Every new trooper removes about 50 drunk drivers from our roads each year. That's about 900 drunk drivers who won't be putting our families in danger.



OTHER REFORMS TO CREATE GOOD JOBS



✓ **Aerospace jobs** – I wrote a law (House Bill 2466) which makes our state a better place for aerospace firms to do business. This law will help the smaller companies helping Boeing build the Dreamliner here in Washington.

✓ **Tax relief for small businesses** – This reform gives relief from an early tax deadline and penalty, repealing the 5

percent penalty for late payment and changing tax due dates to the 25th day of month rather than the 20th (HB 2671).

✓ **Small business property tax exemption** – We raised from \$3,000 to \$15,000 the personal property tax exemption for items (office equipment, computers, etc.) owned by small owner-operated businesses (HB 3164).

✓ **Affordable health insurance** – (HB 2572): A new voluntary partnership blends employer and employee dollars with state assistance to make good health coverage affordable for employers and employees.

PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY

In my last newsletter, I told you about tough new laws I hoped to pass on meth, ID theft and sex offenders.

It's easy to kill legislation – four out of five bills die. So I am happy to tell you that we succeeded: tough new laws on meth, ID theft and sex offenders.

I've held the hands of crime victims and their family members. I know the damage sex offenders do to their victims, especially little kids.

To protect our families, I worked with the other two lawmakers with law enforcement experience – together, we have 93 years on the job, putting handcuffs on the bad guys.

I also worked with police and prosecutors, Republicans and Democrats, victims and victim advocates, to write tough new laws to protect our kids.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Mill Creek – Health care
Saturday, May 20 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Mill Creek City Hall
15728 Main Street

Lake Stevens – Public safety
Saturday, May 20 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Lake Stevens School District,
Conference Room C
12309 22nd Street NE

Everett – K-12 and higher education
Saturday, May 27 from 10 a.m. to noon

Southeast Family YMCA,
Teen Tech Center
13723 Puget Park Drive